

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARTIN 00415 100013Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2991
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MB
SUBJ: CHANGING OF THE GUARD--MARTINIQUE

REF: A. MARTINIQUE A-11 B. MARTINIQUE 0414

1. MAY 20TH PAUL NOIROT-COSSON, WHO SERVED AS PREFECT FOR MARTINIQUE REGION FOR LAST 2 YEARS WAS REPLACED BY RAYMOND HEIM. HEIM WAS BORN IN TARBES, FRANCE, ON FEBRUARY 15, 1920. HE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE AND HAS OCCUPIED NUMEROUS IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AS FOLLOWS:

JULY 8, 1942 - POLICE SUPERINTENDENT
JULY 1, 1964 - GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATOR
JULY 17, 1968 - TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR
JULY 1, 1970 - SUB-PREFECT IN BAYONNE
SEPTEMBER 12, 1973 - SUB-PREFECT IN RAINCY
MARCH 20, 1975 - PREFECT OF HAUTES-ALPES
APRIL 26, 1978 -PREFECT OF MARTINIQUE

2. HEIM CLAIMS TO BE A LONG AND CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF DOM'S SECRETARY PAUL DIJOURD. DURING HIS MAIDEN PRESS CONFERENCE HE
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PAGE 02 MARTIN 00415 100013Z

TOLD JOURNALISTS HIS OLD FRIEND DIJOURD INSISTED THAT HE ACCEPT THE POST IN MARTINIQUE IN SPITE HIS HAVING HAD BEEN ASSIGNED ELSEWHERE. HEIM HAS MADE AN IMPRESSIVE START--HE DEMONSTRATED AGILITY DEALING WITH THE PRESS, LIKEWISE HE HAS MADE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON LEADING LOCAL PERSONALITIES. THEY OPENLY EXPRESSED THOUGHT THAT HE APPEARED AFFABLE AND ACCESSIBLE. CONSUL WILL PAY FIRST FORMAL CALL ON NEW

PREFECT 10:00 A.M. MAY 9TH.

COMMENT: HEIM'S PREDECESSOR NOIROT-COSSON GAINED CONSIDERABLE CREDIT LOCALLY FROM THE MARTINIQUEAN COMMUNITY FOR HAVING INCREASED THE NUMBER OF MARTINIQUEANS HOLDING PROMINENT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. PERHAPS HIS ONLY LOCAL DEFECTION WAS THE LOCAL BEKE COMMUNITY. SOME BEKE HAVE OPINED THAT HE LEANED TOO HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF THE MARTINIQUEANS AND THAT THEY ARE NOT SHEDDING TEARS NOW THAT HE IS DEPARTING.

4. HEIM WILL HAVE A FULL PLATE. ON IT ARE THE UNIVERSITY'S FISCAL PROBLEMS (REF A), CONTINUED HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UPCOMING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' STRIKE (REF B) AS STARTERS. IN OPINION OF THIS REPORTING OFFICER HIS FIRST CHALLENGE IS TO SETTLE THE STRIKE AND THEN SOLVE THE ISSUES UNDERLYING IT.
ROBINSON

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